

A SYSTEM TO PROVIDE WEB-BASED SALES INVOLVING
STORAGE FACILITIES

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a method for a user purchasing
5 goods from a merchant, and a merchant delivering goods to a user. After
communicating with a server system through a merchant website, the user
selects one or more goods to purchase and the user places an order for selected
goods via a user terminal. Then, the order is communicated to the assembling
means via a merchant interface unit, prompting the assembling means to take
10 the products from the merchant's inventory and assemble the order. A storage
devices for a time slot chosen by the user is allocated via a reservation system
and method, and given a combination which will open the storage unit during
the chosen time slot. The order is placed by the assembling means in the
storage unit for the user to pick up. The storage units are monitored to
15 determine if the user picked up the goods at the chosen time slot. The storage
units may also be used for sending packages and receiving packages sent to
the user. Besides accessing the merchant through the merchant website, the
user may also purchase the goods through a kiosk, i.e., located outside the
merchant's facility.

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